

THE GREAT
Necessity and Advantage
OF
PRESERVING
OUR OWN *Dupl*
Manufacturies;
BEING
An ANSWER
TO A
PAMPHLET,
INTITUL'D,
The Honour and Advantage
of the *East-India* Trade, &c.

By N. C. a Weaver of London.

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BRITAN
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BRITISH MUSEUM
SALE DUPLICATE
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To the HONOURABLE
The Commons of Eng-
land in Parliament,
Assembled.

May it please Your Honours,

THE reason that hath
emboldened me to ad-
dress the following Discourse
to this Honourable House, is
because of a Bill now depend-
ing, to restrain the wear-
ing of East-Indian and
Persian wrought Silks, Ben-
galls,

The Dedication.

galls, &c. I having met with a Book, (newly come forth) that seems purposely designed to elude the necessity of.

It is not because I think it answer'd here with that Accuracy that it might have been, nor do I pretend to be able so to do; but because I conceive that Truth ought to be Vindicated, and Error Detected, rather meanly, than not at all; but what is wanting in my Ability, is abundantly supply'd in the Justness

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ness of the Cause, and the Plainness of the Truth, here pretended to be Vindicated.

That Manufacture is one of the chief procuring Causes of Riches, and of improving the Land where it is, is so plain a Truth, that I think can scarce be deny'd, and therefore ought to be promoted by us rather in England than in India.

That there are many Towns in England and Wales that may be improved, by having Manufacto-
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ries set up in them, besides what have already, I do not question; and the Advance that it gives to Land that lies near them, is visible.

The extreme and pressing Necessities of the poorer sort of People that uses to be employ'd in those Manufactories, cannot but afflict them that bear their daily Complaints, and hath been a great Motive to induce me to this Undertaking.

That it hath pleased God Almighty to preserve our
Laws,

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Laws, Liberties, and Parliamentary Constitutions to this day, is a mercy that every Englishman ought to acknowledge with Thankfulness, and that the frequent rise of Grievances of one kind or another, make a Necessity of frequent Parliaments is evident to Experience, and that we do not only need, but enjoy them is our Comfort.

*That the God of infinite Wisdom and Goodness may continually direct and bless
your*

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your Counsels and Endeavours to his Glory ; to the Honour and Safety of the King's Majesty, and to the Welfare and Prosperity of the Nation, is, and shall be the Prayer of

Your Honours most Humble,

And truly Devoted Servant,

N. C.

THE GREAT

Necessity and Advantage

Of Preserving

Our own Manufactories.

THAT there is a Controversie between the Manufacturers of *England* and the *East-India* Traders, I conceive to be generally well known, but the true State of the Case, I suppose, is not so well understood: the Author of a Pamphlet very lately come forth, intituled, *The great Honour*
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and Advantage of the East-India Trade, &c. applies the cause of this difference wholly to the mistaken Prejudices of those, who being, as he says, no Philosophers, don't know where to fix the reason of their misery by the Decrease of their Trade, but have blindly stumbled upon this as the next in their way; I shall therefore endeavour to set this case in its true light, thereby to discover whether it be a meer chymetical Fancy, or a real Evil, that they complain of; and to that end, that it may appear more clear, I shall lay down both negatively and positively ;

First,

First, What it is that they do not complain of?

Secondly, What it is that they conceive they have just reason to complain of and desire Relief?

As to the first, they do not desire to hinder the Trade and Commerce of the Nation, but are so far from it, that they desire the Encrease of all our own Manufactures, as one of the best means of Increase in it; nor do they desire the hinderance of any Merchandise that tends to the good of the Nation (as he seems to suggest) but if that men will say, That their trading Genius is discouraged, because they are hindered from freely

exporting the Native Product of the Land to be manufactured beyond Sea, as in the case of the Owlers, or because they are hinder'd from bringing in all sorts of Provision to serve instead of the Product of our own Land, or because they are hinder'd from sending out the Treasure of the Nation to bring in Lieu thereof such manufactured Goods, as shall serve instead of our own greatest Manufactures, which used to employ the largest numbers of our Poor: in all these cases, and and other such like, it is evident, that whatever cry such men make of the great loss and damage it is to the Nation to hinder

der their Trade and Commerce; yet there is nothing more at the bottom of their design, than their own private Gain, to enrich themselves in particular, though it be to the extremest Damage and Prejudice of the Nation in general; for as it is possible for the Nation to get by that Trade the Merchant loseth by, as the afore-mention'd Author relates and exemplifies; so it was not for want of Wit (he is so much a Philosopher) that he did not tell us, that it is as possible for a Merchant to get much, and grow very rich by that Trade which the Nation loses and is impoverished by. As for example, Suppose a Merchant

chant send 10000 *l.* to *India*, and bring over for it, as much wrought Silks and painted Callicoes, as yield him here 70000 *l.* if they be all worn here in the room of our own Silk and Woollen Manufactures, the Nation loses and is the poorer 10000 *l.* notwithstanding the Merchant has made a very profitable Adventure, and so proportionably the more and oftner he sends, the faster he grows rich, and the more the Nation is impoverished.

Secondly, It is not any suppression of the *East-India* Trade in general that they desire, it is possible that a very considerable Trade may be carried on, in
such

such Commodities, as may make that Trade very profitable, not only to private Men but to the Nation. There are many very usefull Commodities brought from thence, as Pepper, Salt Petre, raw Silk, several Drugs, and many other things that do not interfere with or hinder the Growth or Manufacture of *England*, and such was the *Indian* Trade, generally speaking, till within thirty Years last past, since which time they have laboured to encrease their Trade to their utmost power in those Manufactures, and finding the Advantage they had of having their Goods cheap wrought by the wretched Poverty of that

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numerous People, have used sinister Practices to betray the Arts used in their Native Country, such as sending over Artificers and Patterns to instruct them in the way of making Goods, and Mercers to direct them in the Humour and Fancy of them, to make them fit our Markets, a Practice so inconsistent with the Love, and contrary to the interest of their Native Country, that it is reckoned in some Countries a capital Crime, and this brings me to the second general, that is,

Secondly, What it is that they conceive they have just reason to complain of, and desire relief against.

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And that is, that great Import of Foreign Manufactures that are spent here in the room and stead of our own, and that in such vast quantities, as seems very likely to extinguish the *English* Manufactory, which is as it were quite born down by that mighty Torrent and Inundation of Forreign Manufacturies; and this sending out of our Treasure to bring in this abundance of wrought Goods, is like drawing out the pure and spirituous Blood of a Man's Veins, and filling them with Hydropick Humours.

But the Author of that Pamphlet says, *That this Foreign Commerce is the only way to procure us Treasure*: If he means

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so much of it as is spent here (and that is all we contest about) it must needs be a great mistake, for that is so far from supplying us with Gold and Silver, that it is more like a Quick-sand to devour that we have already.

As for his Comparison, *That the Worsted Weavers of Norwich may as well complain against the Silk Weavers of London*, it is altogether false and illusive; for *London* and *Norwich* are Members of the same Body, and therefore what is laid out with One or Other is still within the Nation, and will circulate like Blood in the Veins; but all the Treasure laid out with the *Indians* for their

their Manufactures to wear here, is as intirely lost for ever to this Kingdom, as the Blood, that by cutting the Veins, being shed upon the Ground, is to the Body: But since he says we have no Mines of Gold or Silver, we can tell him of something else to supply that; our vast quantity of Sheeps Wool, which is improv'd from 6 or 7 Pence *per* pound by the Labour of our own People to 6 or 7 Shillings *per* pound; this thus improv'd by Manufacture, if worn at home, is Money sav'd to the Nation from Foreign Expence, because it costs the Nation nothing; but if sent abroad, the Product is all clear gain to the Nation (pro-

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vided it be by *English* Shipping) and if the Produce be manufacturable Commodities, as in the *Turky* Trade Raw Silk, Hair, &c. then they are improv'd again by the labour of our own People to double or treble the value; and if this may justly be compar'd to Mines for the encrease of our Treasure, then the sending out of our Silver or Gold to *India* to bring over wrought Silks, Bengalls, &c. to be worn here, may as justly be called Quick-sands to decrease our Treasure by devouring or swallowing it up. What he starts and pretends to answer, That the made goods seem particularly to injure the Broad Silk

Silk Weavers, by putting them by or beside their trade and way of living, is illusive, false and foolish; for he cannot but know (if he know any thing of this matter) That the *Normich* and other Worsted Weavers were as much and as early in their Sence of and Complaints against the great damage they receiv'd by these made Goods; and I cannot well tell, whether the Folly or Dishonesty be greater of comparing against both these numerous People, and the vast Multitudes that are Dependents on both, a few People employ'd about the *Indian* made Goods; and to say that the latter is much more to the benefit

nefit of the Nation in general.

But the boldeſt ſtroke lies behind, That it is not true in fact (*i. e.*) (that the made Goods injure the Weavers) and this is indeed the true Paradox. Now matter of fact we conceive muſt be made good by Evidence, we are willing to hear it; then 'tis his Experience, teſtifies, that the ſcarcity of *Indian* Goods doth them no kindneſs, but that rather the plentiful Importation of theſe made Goods ſets them at work: now in oppoſition to his Experience, we can bring in the Teſtimony of many thouſands that have experienced quite contrary, and the ſence of it is too freſh upon them, to be eaſily

easily perswaded, that 'tis but a Dream, and therefore such lame proof of fact is of no value ; he might as well have said, That when a Man hath eat his Belly full of Westphaliaham, it fits him presently with a better Stomach for *English* Bacon ; or when a Gentlewoman hath just bought *French* Alamode or *Flanders* Lace, it makes her the more earnest presently to furnish herself with *English* Lace and Alamode ; and 'tis an easie matter to say, That 'tis Prejudice hinders, when People will not assent to such Contradictions : But he says, *The bringing in of these made Goods will make Silk cheap, and that sets them to work ;*
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if he had said, they will bring in more raw Silk, and by that means make Silk cheap, and set them to work, it had been to the purpose; but the bringing in of the made Goods, takes off the great occasion of their working, *viz.* (the supplying the Market) and so sets them to play; and this is plain and visible.

But that I may not be suspected of Partiality, or be said to abound in mine own Sense, I shall bring in the Testimony of the Judicious Sir *Josiah Child*, who lays down these solid Principles of Truth and Reason in the 43d Page of his Discourse of Trade, That
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Whatever doth

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Advance the Value of Land in Purchase, 2 Improve the Rent of Farmes, 3 Encrease the Bulk of Foreign Trade, 4 Multiply Domestick Artificers, 5 Encline the Nation to Thriftiness, 6 Employ the Poor, 7 Encrease the Stock of People, | must be
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I conceive that it is self-evident, that there is no one thing more adapted to all these ends, than the Use and Encouragement of our own Manufacto-
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ries ; nor any thing more contrary, than the Use and Expence of foreign Manufactures, as that judicious Author observes, That the Expence of foreign Commodities, especially foreign Manufactures, is the worst Expence a Nation can be inclinable to, and ought to be prevented as much as possible.

And though the pernicious Effects of the use and wear of foreign Manufactures, doth first reach those concerned in Manufactory here, yet its ill Influences will as sure reach the Gentry and Proprietors of Land, (if not timely prevented) for as the said judicious Author says, Land and Trade are Twins, and have

have always, and ever will wax and wain together; it cannot be ill with Trade, but Land will fall; nor ill with Lands, but Trade will feel it.

And therefore it must needs be, that the promoting the use and wear of *Indian* Manufactures here, tend to the sinking of the Value of Land in *England*, after the Pattern of *India*, for there must be always a Symmetry and Proportion between the price of Labour and the value of Land, for he that works for 2 Pence a day, cannot give 50 Shillings *per ann.* Rent, nor can he give 3 or 4 Pence *per l.* for Meat, nor for any other Provision suitable :

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and 'tis as sure, that if the Husbandman must sell his Provision for a quarter part of what he now sells it, he cannot pay his Landlord much more than a quarter part of what he now pays, but these are so plain Truths, that it seems, as needless to spend many words about it, as it is to bring Arguments to prove that two is more than one, or that the whole is more than a part, or any other most certain Maxim.

But ere I conclude, it will be necessary once more to look back to the fore-mention'd Pamphlet, stiled, *The Great Honour and Advantage, &c.* where that Author brings in the profit the
Dutch

Dutch make, and the *Scotch* promise themselves by the *East-India* Trade, as a sure token of its Goodness, because no man courts a Mischief. I answer, 'tis not true nor pertinent: 'tis not true in the sense we are treating of, for too many men court that which is a publick Mischief, for their own private Gain, as I suppose will be generally own'd in the case of those that bring in *Alamodes* and other *French* Commodities against Law, now we are engaged in a War against them, and many other cases were easie to name, wherein men do court that which is a Mischief to the Publick for their own private gain.

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2. Nor is it pertinent; for it is not the *East India* Trade in general that is complain'd of, nor that we seek Relief against; but only such of the made Goods as interfere with our own Manufactures; and yet but so much of them neither, as only are worn here: and as to this, 'tis well known, That though the *Dutch* Trade to the *E. Indies* be so much superior to ours, yet as to these Goods, that are the mischievous part of that Trade, two of our last Ships, brought over much more than their twelve Ships brought; and yet that Trade would not be so pernicious to the *Dutch*, as to us, because they have not so large
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a tract of Land, no such Fund as our Sheeps-wooll, nor such vast numbers of People employ'd in Manufactories; but as they have a smaller spot of Ground, so their People are mostly employ'd about Merchandise and Shipping.

He might have told us, what reception the *French*, that have a large tract of Land, and many Manufactorers, do give to Foreign wrought Goods, especially *Indian* (if he had thought it his interest :) Some are of Opinion, and not without reason, That if the *French* King had suffered his People to export the Treasure of his Country, to bring in foreign made Goods,
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as freely as our *Indian* Traders now do, his own Merchants would have helpt so effectually to humble him, that he had been brought to Reason before now.

But that Author hath a special knack of confounding one thing with another, to the end, that he might make one thing pass for another, (a trick very necessary for those that do not intend to clear up Truth, but stifle it.) Thus he would make Trade and Commerce in general, and the whole *E. India* Trade, to be understood for this part of it, which we only oppose, (and some of themselves have counted a small part formerly)

merly.) Thus he would have the particular gain of that Company in advancing their Actions treble, pass for a sign of the Profit it was to the Nation, and the greatest part of his Book, upon strict examination, will fall under this Head.

As for our *Scotch* Friends, whatever they promise themselves from this Trade, that we contest about, (and if that Bill now depending before the Honourable House of Commons, for restraining the wear of *Indian Silks, &c.*) do pass into a Law, they will be little the better for it, if they come to bring in their *Callico's* in any considerable quantities to be worn in

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Scotland, in lieu of their own Linen Manufacture; a few years will teach them (whatever some private persons may get by it) that they have made but an ill bargain of it for their Countrey; but if it should not pass into a Law, no doubt but they will be peddling them all over *England*, and then they may well promise themselves to be great gainers; but poor *England* must pay for all, and suffer the fate of *Iffachar*, to couch under two Burdens.

I have now done for the present with the aforesaid Author and the Trade he pleads for; if any desire to inform themselves, both in our *East Indian*

Indian and other Foreign Trades, what benefit each is to the Nation, they may please to read a Book, called, *An Essay on the State of England in relation to its Trade, &c.* written about a Year since, by the ingenious Mr. *John Cary*, Merchant of *Bristol*.

I shall now state briefly, Whether the People, and their Employ, (for whose sake I have made these faint Essays) be a real benefit to the Kingdom in general, or only to some few persons in particular, under the severe Administration of the Duke of *Alva*, in the *Netherlands*: Many Families came over into *England*, and brought

over with them this Trade of weaving broad Silks and Stuffs made of Wooll and Silk and Wooll mix'd: These were graciously received, by that great and wise Princess Queen *Elizabeth*, of blessed Memory ; and were so encouraged, that through the succeeding Reigns, they came to more thousands than they were Families: that this hath been one of those means, that hath advanced Land both in Rent and Purchase so considerably since that time, were easie to demonstrate, not only from Experience, but from the nature of the thing, as a Cause that must naturally produce such an Effect ; and when
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all is said that can be, we shall never be enrich'd by an *Ignis fatuus*, but by such Trades as have a natural tendency thereunto. To conclude, *Solomon* saith, *The honour of a King is the multitude of his Subjects, but in the want of People is the destruction of the Prince.* Now this Trade hath not only brought a Livelihood to such great Multitudes of our own People, but entertain'd also many thousands of *French* Protestants fled hither for Refuge, which will be much to the Honour and Advantage of this Kingdom, if ~~our~~ Manufactures be so encouraged, that there may be a sufficient employ
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for them all, and our Poor (whom God and Nature requires us to take care of) be so employ'd, as to be an useful part of the Nation. Much more might be said ; but I shall only add, That no one thing under the Divine Providence, and the Care of our Governours, contributes more to the Riches and Safety of the Nation, than encouraging our own Manufactures.

F I N I S.

